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The U.S. Fire Administration maintains the **Emergency Management and Response – Information Sharing and Analysis Center (EMR-ISAC)**.

For information regarding the EMR-ISAC visit www.usfa.dhs.gov/emr-isac or contact the EMR-ISAC office at: (301) 447-1325 and/or emr-isac@fema.dhs.gov.

The InfoGram

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Responding to Carbon Monoxide Calls

As the season turns colder, homeowners turn on their furnaces and gas fireplaces for the first time. Some will haul their generator out of the back of their garage with hopes they won't have to use it this winter. Some will even move their outdoor grills inside the garage so they can extend the cookout season.

Every year, too many homeowners don't have their heaters or generators serviced to maintain safety and efficiency, or don't use the items properly, and sometimes this leads to [carbon monoxide \(CO\) poisoning or death](#). In addition, cases spike after disasters causing power outages – such as [heavy snow or ice storms](#).

9-1-1 dispatchers and EMS personnel should know the common signs and symptoms of CO poisoning: headache, weakness, dizziness, nausea and vomiting, confusion, blurred vision, shortness of breath, and loss of consciousness.

Every year, first responders walk into a deadly CO environment without warning. As symptoms listed above are not exclusive to CO exposure, it is [important for first responders to carry CO monitors](#). Only about half of states have laws requiring CO detectors in buildings, so it is important not to rely on a CO detector in a home or school. This gives first responders not only the chance to treat potential victims quickly, but to detect high CO levels before they become victims themselves.

(Source: [CDC](#))

Self-Dispatching and Freelancing in Firefighting

The National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) worked with the Department of Justice to adopt a position regarding the self-dispatching or freelancing of firefighters. Released in late September, the position concerns firefighter safety.

The [NVFC Position on Freelancing and Self-Dispatching](#) states that the NVFC opposes freelancing or self-dispatching as "it can lead to miscommunication, causing safety and health issues for firefighters, first responders, and citizens." Firefighters should have a legal authority to engage in suppression activities. The NVFC strongly encourages fire departments to adopt this position within their own guidelines.

In this official position, the NVFC defines freelancing as "being authorized to respond to a scene but responding outside the scope of incident command and/or

failing to check-in with the command structure.” Self-dispatching is “responding to a scene without prior authorization.” These definitions apply to both individuals and departments.

(Source: [NVFC](#))

Updated Pandemic Influenza Response Framework

Past influenza outbreaks prompted the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to update the preparedness and response framework for pandemic influenza. The updated framework replaces the “stages” listed in the 2006 National Strategy for Pandemic Influenza implementation plan with new progression “intervals” and “domains.”

The new guidance takes experience from previous influenza events to better describe a potential outbreak by using intervals, which are based on segments of influenza’s epidemic curve. The six intervals more clearly represent a timeline of what is taking place along that curve and provide state, local, tribal, and territorial authorities better guidance of how and when to intervene.

Public health officials at all levels of government can use the updated framework to update plans and support decisions during an influenza crisis. A more complete explanation of the changes, breakdowns of the new intervals, and discussion on its decision-making application can be found in this issue of the [CDC’s Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report](#).

(Source: [CDC](#))

Critical Infrastructure Cybersecurity Webinar

Please save the date for the next [Critical Infrastructure Cyber Community Voluntary Program](#) (C³, pronounced “C Cubed”) meeting, scheduled for November 10th. The meeting will be in Houston, Texas, but will also be available as a webinar for those not able to attend in person.

Department of Homeland Security and the critical infrastructure community work together through C³ to improve cybersecurity issues and plans. Launched to coincide with the February 2014 release of the [Cybersecurity Framework](#), C³ aims to encourage the critical infrastructure community to use the Framework to strengthen their cybersecurity.

One of several meetings scheduled this year, the [November 10th event in Houston](#) (PDF, 186 Kb) tentative agenda includes a session on how to use cybersecurity and participation in the C³ Voluntary Program within your organization’s communications channels, and panels discussing information sharing as well as the perspectives on Framework use by industry, state, local, tribal, and territorial (SLTT) partners.

Additional details, including a meeting invite and full agenda, will be distributed as the date approaches. Please contact the C³ Voluntary Program at CCubedVP@hq.dhs.gov with any questions and to RSVP. Visit the [C³ website](#) for more information on the program, and connect with them on their [C³ Twitter page](#).

(Source: [C³](#))

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